



Connecticut Department of Public Health

Testimony Presented Before the Public Health Committee

March 4, 2015

**Commissioner Jewel Mullen, MD, MPH, MPA
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House Bill #6294 - An Act Concerning Qualifications for Licensed Professional Counselors

The Department opposes House Bill 5625 which would allow internship hours to count towards licensure as a professional counselor.

The current licensure requirements for a professional counselor include three thousand hours of postgraduate degree supervised experience performed over a period of not less than one year, that include a minimum of one hundred hours of direct supervision by certain licensed and credentialed professionals. The Department is unaware of any evidence for the need to reduce licensure requirements for this profession. Furthermore, such attenuation of professional counselor licensure requirements, as proposed in this bill, could have a negative effect on the quality of the professional counseling service that Connecticut residents receive.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony.